



February 5, 2010

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin  
2446 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

I am writing in support of the Food Systems Research Group (FSRG) FY2011 request. As you are aware, the FSRG has been a continuously funded special grant for over 25 years. It has a reputation of producing numerous outstanding research products including policy-relevant papers, books, and monographs on topics primarily related to fair pricing, competitiveness and efficiency of the vertically aligned food system. The FSRG director and affiliated faculty are regularly invited to speak on these topics, which help shape public policy and move agriculture forward in a positive way. Graduate students that work with the group are regularly hired into research positions nationally and internationally. Their work extends the base and reputation of Wisconsin, Dane County, and the University of Wisconsin in numerous ways. Based on the group's recent output and past reputation, there is very strong evidence to suggest that the FSRG will continue to provide much needed insight on industrial organization issues related to the role of large and powerful agribusinesses in the U.S.

The FY2011 FSRG project spans 36 months of planned activities. Director Kyle Stiegert proposes critical work on hunger issues nationally and here in Wisconsin; pricing and competition in the rapidly advancing, and much discussed, genetically modified seed industry; and a host of other studies on pricing in various food processing and food retailing sectors including dairy, beef, and egg markets. It is clear from the proposal that each of these studies focuses on issues important to southern Wisconsin food and agriculture markets. In addition to procuring current data sets, the FSRG plans to use these funds to support post doctorate researchers, research assistants, and faculty to develop and disseminate research findings. These key personnel have many combined years of experience and all reside in or around Dane County.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions or information about this program.

Sincerely,

Irwin L. Goldman  
Interim Dean and Director

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